

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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THE DANCE

Has the Leopard Changed his Spots?

By Rev. H. F. Gilbert
Retired Missionary, American Baptist Convention

"Oh! Can God ever forgive me? Can God ever forgive me?"

These words were wrung from the bleeding heart of a girl, as she continued, "Oh! If I just had never learned to dance!" In an unguarded hour she had sacrificed her virtue, and she poured out her heart to her teacher.

This true incident has been duplicated in the experience of many a leader of our youth, yet the dance has steadily gained in favor in our churches and church-related schools.

The author determined upon a survey of denominational colleges. Where can one better feel the pulse of the church than in these, fostered and maintained by the church, and to which the loyal churches send their children and ministerial students to be educated, trained, and molded? If the colleges sanction dancing, then so do the churches which maintain them, or, if not today, then tomorrow. The conclusion is inevitable.

I secured a total of forty-one catalogues and bulletins of denominationally-related colleges. I received also twenty-nine personal letters from officers of administration of as many colleges, in reply to my inquiries on the dance question. My own denomination was covered by a complete survey, and a spot-check of colleges of three classes gave definite information. In the following report, dancing is understood to refer to the dance as a part of the social life with the approval of college authorities.

When I prepared to read the accumulated letters from the colleges of my own denomination, I selected first a bunch of letters from our "home mission colleges," for the most part, founded by our Home Mission Society, with an emphasis on education for ministers, and largely supported by that society during the years.

I was due for a shock. Every one of the "home mission schools" whose letters I opened has dancing!! I am a Rip Van Winkle. While I have slept, the leopard has changed his spots. The dance is no longer a part of "this vile world," but has become "a friend to grace to help me on to God!" The completed survey shows that of the seven "home mission colleges," all have dancing.

The rest of the colleges of my

denomination ran as I had thought they would. Eleven of the thirteen colleges have dancing.

The spot-check of the colleges of the other old-line denominations showed that most of the colleges

(Continued on page 4)

Saints in Caesar's Household

By Dr. P. W. Philpott

"All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household."—Phil. 4:22.

If we had been living in the day that Paul wrote his epistle to the Philippians, about the last place on earth that we would look for saints would have been in Caesar's household. Yet they were there, and by the grace of God they witnessed a good confession. From that citadel of Satan, these saints sent greetings back to Philippi. If we have ears to hear, they will surely speak to us also across the gulf of the centuries and tell us that God is greater than our trial; and that no matter where our lot may be cast, He will save and keep all who trust Him.

The word "saint" has been invested with a superstitious and idolatrous meaning that is unscriptural and from which it must be divested if we are to get the full force of this message. There is a church that canonizes some of its faithful after they have passed on. Prayers are offered to them and worship given to them which is idolatrous. A saint is simply a saved sinner. It would have been just as proper to have said the "believers," or the "disciples," or the "Christians in Caesar's household greet you." The word "saint" or "sanctified one" in Scripture denotes primarily position rather than character. It simply means "set apart." In the Old Testament many things were sanctified—the tabernacle, the priests, the furniture of the tabernacle, etc.—that is, they were set apart from a common unto a holy use. In the same way, believers are sanctified, that is, set apart. "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

The word "sanctified" has a three-fold meaning in Scripture. First, it relates to the past, to Calvary—we were sanctified or set apart for God through the finished work of Christ. Second, it relates to the present—we are being sanctified, or set apart from sin, in a progressive sense, by the work of the Holy Spirit. Third, it relates to the future—we shall know entire sanctification when, at the close of our earthly pilgrimage, we look into the face of our blessed Lord and are "changed into the same image." "When he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." Not until then will we be completely sanctified.

The Scriptures clearly teach that worship belongs to God alone.

The Bible is not only a revelation of God, but a revelation of man. It tells us not only what God thinks, but what man thinks. Without the Bible, we would



Dr. P. W. Philpott

You remember John's experience in this connection, recorded in that wonderful series of events in the Book of the Revelation. Having seen many things that awed and thrilled him, he came at last to "the marriage supper of the Lamb," where the saints were assembled. So magnificent was the sight that John fell at the feet of the one who showed him these things. But the heavenly guide said quickly, "See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God." This, and other similar passages, make clear that prayer offered to saints, or in their name, is unscriptural. Worship given to anyone except God is idolatrous. Jesus said: "Whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he will give it you." There is merit in no other name.

A Glorious Message

What message comes to us from the saints in Caesar's household? First of all, they tell us that Christ can save at any time, in any place. These believers were the officers of the law who were commissioned to guard Paul, a prisoner. From his lips they heard the Gospel; in his life they had seen its power, and it had led them to know Jesus Christ as their Saviour. This speaks to us

(Continued on page 5)

"Let Us Alone!"

What Is Wrong Between Sinners and Christ?

By Rev. John B. Kenyon
First Baptist Church, Altha, Fla.

"And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, thou Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him."—Mark 1:23-25.

never know God; without the Bible we would never know man. "The Word of God is quick [living], and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a DISCERNER OF THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTS OF THE HEART" (Heb. 4:12). The Bible is the true mind reader. God knows your thinking.

"Jesus knew their thoughts" (Matt. 12:25). "Jesus perceived their wickedness" (Matt. 22:18; See Luke 5:22 and 9:47). "Jesus did not commit himself unto them, BECAUSE HE KNEW ALL MEN, And needed not that any should testify of man: for HE KNEW WHAT WAS IN MAN" (John 2:24, 25).

Modern psychologists and psychiatrists proudly think that they know what is in man, that they know his thoughts. But they neither know the thoughts of others or their own thoughts. The human heart is an unfathomable depth. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: WHO CAN KNOW IT?" (Jer. 17:9). "I the Lord [not the psychiatrists] search the heart, I try the reins . . ." (vs. 10).

A missionary report tells of certain natives who heard the reading of Romans, chapter 1, for the first time. It was such a burning, scathing indictment of sin that they thought it was originated by

the missionaries, based on personal knowledge of their sins. "Who has been telling you about us?" they demanded.

What man thinks is not so important, except that we must know what he is thinking if we are to help him. A good physician must be a good diagnostician. It is foolish and useless to treat a man for an ailment he doesn't have. God knows what is wrong with man, and how to treat him. His diagnosis is not guesswork. His Word and His Spirit x-ray the human mind and heart. You may not agree with His diagnosis, but He is in a position to know. It is the business of the Holy Spirit to convict you of the truth of His diagnosis.

In Mark 1:23 and 24 we have (Continued on page 6)



Rev. John B. Kenyon

THE EDITOR'S Notes

by John R. Rice

It was about three o'clock Sunday morning when we drove into my driveway in Wheaton, after unloading daughter Mary Lloys (Mrs. Himes) and the four children, Lloys Jean, Faith, Andy, and Johnny, at their home. We had driven from the Bill Rice Ranch west of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, since two o'clock Central Standard Time. Twelve hours brought us home and the daylight saving added another hour by Chicago and Wheaton time.

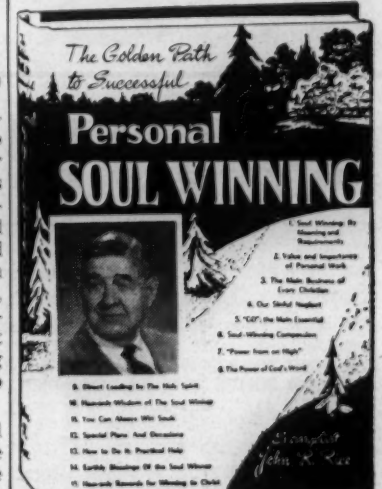
You may be sure I slept well after a strenuous week in the family conference at the Bill Rice Ranch and the twelve-hour drive. Sunday morning Mrs. Rice served me breakfast in bed about ten o'clock (very unusual thing, either to be in bed at that time or to get breakfast in bed!). Then she went to church while I took another nap.

Mrs. Rice was eager to go to church because our new grandson, Roger Edward Martin, Jr., was to be dedicated to the Lord Sunday morning.

Joy's baby, our twentieth grandchild, was born Saturday morning, August 19, a fine husky boy. May God's blessing be upon him and his young parents, Roger and Joy

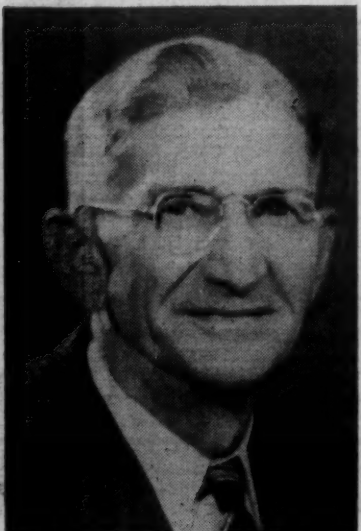
(Continued on page 4)

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Rev. H. G. Gilbert



Self-Discipline

When I was a child I used to be intrigued by the fairy tales in which some individual was granted three wishes. In the stories (as in life) the first heart's desire was usually a foolish one, and so the next two wishes had to be used to correct the problems caused by the fulfillment of the first.

Not long ago I found myself considering what sort of things I would want most for my children if I could choose for them certain special gifts and attributes to make life happy and useful. Of course, all of us who know the Lord would desire first that each of our children would have that most precious gift of all—eternal life. And that ought to be the one single-minded goal of all our training.

But then what? Would we choose for them a brilliant mind? Beauty? Wealth? Fame? A sound body? Unusual talent in music, or speaking ability, or in art? A host of friends? A pleasant personality?

I thought over each of those gifts most lauded and sought after by our civilization. What if my children should have wealth without the discipline to use it wisely and well? Wealth could then bring on the direst form of spiritual poverty.

What if my daughter were granted beauty of face and form without a beauty of character? Is there any ugliness to match the contradiction of a beautiful face over a proud heart?

If my son were granted a brilliant mind without the spiritual perception to weigh humanistic philosophies by the Word of God, what terrible heresy might result.

And how many a young person, gifted with a voice created to move the hearts of millions, has lost the opportunity for blessing he could have had because of a lust for fame and worldly recognition.

Even physical health and strength bring no guarantee of a happy, useful life. If the mind is sick, the emotions immature, then strength of body is no better than that possessed by any jungle animal.

Obviously then, intellect, wealth, beauty, talent, or good health must not be a parent's prime desire for his children. Any out-

standing human gift or ability without the self-discipline to use it well, is wasted.

In the mercy of God, the reverse is also true. Many a man suffering serious physical or mental handicaps has, through self-discipline, used his very weakness for great blessing. Fanny Crosby's blessed ministry of writing hymns was not in spite of her blindness but rather because of it. Abraham Lincoln's early poverty taught him an appreciation for common men. The Apostle Paul stated that the Lord had given him a greater measure of grace because of his infirmity.

We sometimes conclude, a little illogically, that a person who becomes a Christian should automatically possess a fully-developed, well-built character. They are shocked to discover that a Christian may fall into the grossest type of sin, or that he may seem to be completely lacking in sound moral backbone. But spiritual growth, like physical growth, is not guaranteed just in the process of being born. It is something which must be worked at daily, just as surely as we work at providing for the needs of the body.

What a challenge, then, for all of us who are parents to keep everlastingly at the job of endowing our children with this precious, almost-elusive gift! May God give us wisdom as we teach our children the joy of hard work; the necessity for higher-than-average standards; the responsibility for doing right whether it is easy or hard.

"My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee . . . So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man."
—Prov. 3:1, 2, 4.

Backsliding

It is a miserable thing to be a backslider. Of all unhappy things that can befall a man, I suppose it is the worst. A stranded ship, a broken-winged eagle, a garden overrun with weeds, a harp without strings, a church in ruins—all these are sad sights, but a backslider is a sadder sight still.—Ryle.



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Introducing Evangelist Jerry Thomas



We are glad to let folk know about the availability of Evangelist Jerry Thomas of Detroit, Michigan. Brother Thomas has been doing evangelistic work the past year in the state of Michigan and God has blessed with a number of good meetings. Now he would like to let pastors know that he is available for meetings outside of the state of Michigan.

Brother Thomas was saved in the Temple Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan, in 1950 and took three years of training at the Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri. After pastoring the Mid-City Baptist Church in Bloomington, Ill., he entered Pillsbury Conservative Baptist Bible College in Owatonna, Minnesota, and graduated with a B. A. degree.

Rev. Oscar McCollum, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Southgate, Michigan, recommends Brother Thomas as follows: "One of God's men for today is Evangelist Jerry Thomas. God has used him much in our church. He is a real friend and inspiration to me as a preacher. His experience in the pastorate colors his messages with understanding of our church problems."

Brother Thomas is a musician as well as a preacher and is available for meetings as the Lord opens the door. If you feel led to write him, address all correspondence to 5822 Pennsylvania, Detroit 13, Michigan.

INCIDENTS



By
Evangelist Robert L. Sumner,
Contributing Editor

Facing Facts

Movie and TV hero Robert Cummings made an amazing statement the other day. Expressing his philosophy to columnist Vernon Scott, he said: "I don't believe people should have to face facts. That's negative thinking. Exercising your imagination is the important thing. It is a powerful influence on your entire being."

How long would a scientist last if he did not face facts?

How long would a historian last if he did not face facts?

How long would a businessman remain in business if he did not face facts?

Really, how long would anyone last in anything refusing to face facts? That is an assinine statement which proves only that the speaker was practicing the philosophy he preaches: he certainly did not face facts when he made it.

However, it is amazing how popular this philosophy is, especially in the realm of the spiritual and the eternal. People do not like to face facts about judgment and an eventual accounting with a holy, angry, offended Deity. But these are facts that had better be faced because "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27).

Let's return to the realm of reality before it is too late!

Bargains for the Devil

A couple of parents in New York City gave their son some money to buy shoes. Instead of doing as he had been told, he squandered the money on other things, especially candy. To make up for the loss, he and three of his buddies decided to resort to robbery.

Seeing two elderly men get on a self-service elevator in a housing development apartment building,

the boys got in after them. After one of the men got off at the second floor, the quartet began beating the remaining one. Suddenly the oldest boy, 16-year-old Jose Burgos, "went crazy and shot him." One of Burgos' friends tipped off the police and the four were arrested. The robbery-killing had netted a total of \$2.60. These lads sold out mighty cheap!

Judas sold out for thirty pieces of silver.

These boys sold out for 65 cents apiece.

What price is Satan paying you for allegiance to him and rejection of Christ?

"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16:26).

Things to Think About

A recent editorial in the Toledo Times entitled, "Federal Education," offered sufficient food for thought for me to reproduce it in this column. The editorial said:

"There are three things to keep in mind about Federal Government projects. (1) No matter how modestly they are launched in scope or in cost, there is no stopping them after that. (2) No matter how well-meaning the purposes are to begin with, they soon become distorted. (3) Whatever the Federal Government pays for, it controls in one way or another.

"Federal aid to education is a case in point.

"For instance, the bill already has grown beyond President Kennedy's original request by \$186 million in the House version and \$252 million in the Senate—and it doesn't reach the floor for debate until tomorrow. Even if it goes through without the trimmings, that will be only the start. One can count on subsequent administrations and Congresses yielding to pressure for more.

"You can count on this from experience, for actually the Government has been in the aid to education business two years now. The National Defense Education Act was passed in 1958 as a 'temporary' measure. It has been costing in the neighborhood of \$160 million a year. Just last month President Kennedy recommended that this be increased steadily to \$403 million a year by 1965.

"The National Defense Education Act also is one of those high-minded things that got out of hand. Initially it was supposed to promote science in fields like chemistry, physics, mathematics, and engineering where skills are in short supply, yet necessary for national security. The act is accomplishing this to a degree, it is true; but what else is it doing?

"Three Indiana University students, under NDEA scholarships, are working toward their doctorates in folk music. The study of church music is being financed by defense education funds at the Eastman School of Music. Another NDEA program teaches English to high school English teachers. NDEA-subsidized students are studying Spanish history at Alabama, city planning at MIT and insensit stress physiology at Montana State College.

"Now all these may be worthwhile fields of scholastic endeavor; but what they have to do with national defense education is beyond comprehension. Asked to explain the folk music project, for example, the Office of Education noted that 'the academic study of folklore is particularly advanced in the Soviet Union.'

"Can there be federal aid to education without federal control? If so, it will be the only federally financed program that does not have regulatory strings attached. In fact, Senator Byrd pointed out a few days ago that it would be 'irresponsible for a federal agency to pass out billions of dollars without exercising control over the programs for which they are provided.' The taxpayers themselves would have it no other way."

Pray for Evangelist Sumner's meetings:

Thru September 24:
Immanuel Baptist Church
1304 North 4th Avenue East
Newton, Iowa

October 1-15:
Union Meeting
High School Auditorium
Allen, Nebraska

Weniger Appointed Seminary President



Dr. Arno Q. Weniger

We congratulate Dr. Arno Q. Weniger upon his appointment by the Board of Trustees as the new president of the San Francisco Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Weniger, who recently celebrated his twentieth year as pastor of the Hamilton Square Baptist Church, has been serving as Administrative Vice-President. The Board has been searching for a president for the past two years.

Dr. Weniger is an aggressive fundamentalist and his strong leadership will be a tremendous asset to the Seminary. The Seminary is using the facilities of the Hamilton Square Baptist Church. Dr. Weniger will serve without salary while he continues as pastor of the church.

Dr. Weniger comes to his new task well qualified by reason of experience as a director of three other seminaries, and with extensive pastoral experience in Minnesota, Oregon, British Columbia and California. He received his education and degrees as Northwestern Schools in Minneapolis, and Western Seminary in Portland. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity by the Northwestern Evangelical Seminary of Minneapolis in 1947, from the noted fundamentalist leader, Dr. W. B. Riley. This was the last honorary degree which this outstanding fundamentalist leader conferred before laying down his life here.

Dr. Weniger comes from a family of preachers, being the second oldest of five ordained Baptist preachers. He is married, with two children. His son, Arno Q. Weniger, Jr., is pastor of the First Baptist Church of International Falls, Minnesota.

He has held numerous offices in the Conservative Baptist movement, including the national presidency of the Conservative Baptist Association for two years and also membership on the Board of Directors of the Conservative Baptist Home Mission Society. The San Francisco Seminary is endorsed by the Conservative Baptist Association of the San Francisco Bay area and his Board of Trustees are from leading Conservative Baptist Churches.

Dr. Weniger's formal introduction into office will take place at the fall Convocation of the Seminary on Monday, September 18.

KIDS Korner

By Aunt Mary

Did you ever hear a donkey talk? Well, many years ago a little donkey did speak. Long ago, you remember, God's people, the Israelites, had left Egypt, and God was bringing them into Canaan, the land "flowing with milk and honey."

On this journey they fought against and defeated the Amorites, and moved into all their cities. Now the Moabites who lived nearby got scared. They felt sure that they would be the next victims of Israel's battles. There was a king of Moab, Balak by name. He got to thinking about this problem, and decided to beat the thing ahead of time. He called a meeting of some of the chief princes of Moab and said, "You must go over to see Balaam, the prophet of the Lord, and ask him to curse these people, the Israelites, so we can win the battle against them."

So the princes went, as they were told to do, to see Balaam. They said, "We know that whoever you bless is happy, and whoever you curse is cursed, and bad things happen to them. Now come with us; curse these Israelites for us."

Balaam said to the princes, "Spend the night here with me. I will talk to the Lord and do what He tells me to do." So the men spent the night.

And God came to Balaam to say, "What are these men here for?" Balaam answered, "They came to get me to curse the Israelites." The Lord said, "You must not go with them. These people are my people, and blessed. You must not curse them."

Morning came, and Balaam told the princes, "The Lord will not let me go with you." Sadly the princes went home without the prophet.

But King Balak wasn't happy. He called together more princes, and more important ones. He said, "Go tell Balaam he can have whatever he wants. Tell him he can have great riches, any position of honor he wants. He can be a big shot if he will curse these people." And off the princes went with this big deal.

When they met Balaam and told him their offer of money and fame, he answered, "If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold I couldn't come unless the Lord gives permission. But stay here tonight and I will ask God about it."

Now Balaam already knew what God wanted him to do, didn't he? But he also wanted the money and other things offered him. But that night God told him, "Balaam, if you insist, you can go, but I have already told you these are my people and you must not curse them." When morning came, Balaam told the princes he would go. He got on his little ass, or donkey, to go to Moab's king, Balak.

Now God was angry with him, and sent His angel to stop the stubborn prophet. As he rode the donkey with two servants beside him, the angel stood in the way with his sword drawn. Now the little ass had better sense than his master. He saw the angel with his sword and turned aside into a field. Balaam was very angry and so he whacked the poor little beast to make her go where he wanted to go.

Again the angel stood in the path in the vineyard where there was a wall on each side. Since she couldn't turn to one side to get out of the way, the scared little animal bumped into the wall and bruised Balaam's foot. My, the prophet was furious! Again he beat the little donkey.

Now the angel went a little further along the path and stood in the way. Here there was no room to go to either side at all. When the donkey saw the angel this time, there wasn't much she could do. She simply fell down with Balaam. That prophet was so mad he started beating the poor

little donkey a third time. And the Bible tells us that God opened the mouth of the ass so she could talk back. She said, "Why have you beaten me these three times?" And Balaam, without even thinking how strange it was for a donkey to talk, answered, "Because you have mocked me. If I had a sword, I would kill you." The donkey said, "Haven't I always served you well till today?" And Balaam admitted that she had. Then God opened Balaam's eyes so he could see the angel with the sword blocking the way. Scared, he fell flat on the ground.

God's angel spoke now. "Why have you hit your donkey these three times? Because you insisted on going where I did not want you to go, I was ready to kill you. But the donkey has saved your life these three times. If she had not turned away these three times I would have killed you but saved her life."

How sorry Balaam was then. He said, "I am sorry I have disobeyed. I will go back home now."

The angel said, "You can go with the men but you cannot curse my people. I will go with you. But you must speak only what I tell you."

A wiser Balaam went to the king of Moab.

This is the story of a dumb little donkey, an ass, who was smarter than God's prophet. She wasn't blinded by the story of all the money and honor Balaam was promised if he would curse God's people. But she kept her eyes open and saw the angel of God in the way.

God allowed a little donkey to tell God's prophet off. Don't you think that little donkey enjoyed talking for the first time? I doubt if she ever talked again, but that time she saved her master's life, and honored the Lord. Why don't

WITH THE Evangelists

REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

EVANGELIST CECIL PEACOCK, P. O. Box 206, Bartow, Florida, held a revival August 6 through 11 in the Antioch Baptist Church in Milan, Georgia. Rev. Dahl McDermitt, pastor, reports there were 13 professions of faith, 4 who joined the church by letter and 16 rededications. The pastor reports that the attendance was the largest in the history of the church, with 65 people who could not even get inside the building at the last service.

EVANGELIST GLEN H. SCHUNK, 10 Blythewood Drive, Greenville, South Carolina, recently concluded a two-week revival campaign at the First Baptist Church of Arvada, Colorado. Rev. James Warnock, pastor, reports 20 conversions and 68 rededications during the meeting. He heartily recommends Brother Schunk to any pastor who wants an uncompromising soul-winning evangelist. Rev. Bill Renstrom, blind singer, led the music for the meeting.

Evangelist Shunk also held a 11-day campaign at the College View Gospel Chapel, Denver, Colorado. Rev. Norman Mayfield, pastor, reports 12 conversions and 77 rededications. They had the most consistent crowds they have ever had in any previous revivals.

EVANGELIST A. K. PAULEY, 508½ Bukley, Chattanooga, Tennessee, held a meeting August 6-20 in Mount Zion Baptist Church in Flat Rock, Alabama. There were 15 professions of faith, one who joined the church by letter and many other decisions by Christians.

EVANGELIST DEL FEHSENFELD, 6427 Wyandotte, Kansas City Missouri, held a one-week

you turn to Numbers, chapter 22, and read the story in the Bible?

Now if a donkey could please the Lord, say the words God wanted her to say, couldn't a boy or girl please God through the words he speaks? Do ask God to help you to say only the right words. Now learn this verse to help.

Memory Verse: "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation [thoughts] of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer" (Ps. 19:14).



Bud Lyles

Hi It sure has been a busy summer. Revivals and conferences and vacations have kept us away from home many weeks. What time we have been at home has been crammed full with a special promotion project as well as myriad details of the VOICE OF REVIVAL broadcast. So it is good to be able to sit beside the record player and relax with the albums which have come to us for review this month. Pull up a chair and "give a listen."

Most of us enjoy Negro spirituals. We like to hear them and we like to sing them. But no one can sing the spirituals like the Negro people themselves. One of the outstanding Negro church chorals groups is the Star Bethel Baptist Church Choir of Oakland, California. This group presents ten of their most requested spirituals on an album titled GREAT DAY. One hundred voices under the direction of Mr. Herman Harper produce a big sound with strong rhythmic accents throughout each selection. The songs include: Jesus, Jesus; Nothing But the Blood; I'll Be Somewhere; I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray, and Great Day. WORD W-3104-LP.

In connection with the celebration of their tenth anniversary, Word Records, Inc., has produced a happy album featuring the artists who record with the company. The story of the founding and development of the Word organization under the leadership

campaign at the Dover Baptist Temple, Dover, Ohio, August 6-13. Rev. Kenneth Taylor, pastor, reports a total of 21 decisions during the meeting with 16 uniting with the church during the week and 11 baptized on the last Sunday night. The pastor heartily recommends Brother Fehsenfeld as a true revivalist who is a fearless preacher and who is used of the Lord to bring great conviction of sin.

EVANGELIST JOE MILLER, Route 1, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, held a one-week evangelistic Bible conference, July 23-30, at the Cedar Crest-Lucy Furnace Chapel, Mt. Union, Pennsylvania. Rev. Leon Foote, pastor, reports there were 4 professions of faith and the closing night there were 154 people crowded into the small two and one-half year old chapel to hear the closing message.

EVANGELIST BILL HALL, P. O. Box 427, Greenville, Tennessee, held a revival recently in the Mountain Home Bible Church, Mountain Home, North Carolina. Rev. M. A. Nutting, pastor, reports 8 first-time decisions for Christ, 12 rededications and 5 family altars established. There were a total of 15 additions to the church during the meeting and immediately after.

EVANGELIST JERRY THOMAS, 5822 Pennsylvania, Detroit 13, Michigan, just closed a one-week revival in the Calvary Gospel Church near Port Huron, Michigan. Rev. E. G. Johns reports 25 souls saved with others strengthened in the faith during the revival.

of its president, Jarrell McCracken, is a fascinating one. Beginning with one recording "The Game of Life," done by McCracken, the business has grown to be the world's largest producer of religious records. The anniversary album holds twenty-two selections by soloists and groups of artists. It is an excellent production and will serve to introduce you to the many fine folk associated with Word. WORD W-3155-LP

The White sisters are currently associated with Dr. Ford Philpot on TV and in evangelistic work. Some of the Christian public object to their obvious patterning after a popular trio in the entertainment world. However, many of their numbers have sincerity and depth of feeling. Their latest album is called ESPECIALLY FOR YOU, and was produced, arranged and accompanied by Harold DeCou. Twelve selections including some new and some old Heartaches; So Send I You; Springs of Living Water; Have You Any Room for Jesus. WORD W-3151-LP

Rev. Merrill Dunlop is well known in Christian circles for his ministry as pianist, organist, and composer. He has traveled extensively with a number of evangelists and has been heard on Bible conference programs throughout the country. Mr. Dunlop is now affiliated with Sing-aspiration publications. His album titled A SONG OF JOY features organ interpretations of twelve selections, six of which are his own compositions. Some of the songs are: Whispering Hope; O, the Rose of Sharon; Wonderful; Marvelous, Yet True; When They Ring Those Golden Bells; The Holy City. ZONDERVAN ZLP-577

A CARMICHAEL CONCERT featuring the Ralph Carmichael Orchestra is a really wonderful album. Mr. Carmichael has more than two hundred albums to his credit. His name has become synonymous with excellence in orchestral and choral sacred music. He has amply demonstrated his mastery with a baton. In his newest release you will hear fresh orchestral settings for many old favorites. As usual, the strings are prominent, but there is bold use of woodwinds, too. The total effect is one of good taste and sympathetic interpretation. Titles include: Jesus, Name I Love; In the Garden; Amazing Grace; Ivory Palaces; What a Friend; and Some Golden Daybreak. A fine album for your collection. WORD W-3149-LP.

Miss Joe Ann Shelton directs the Baptist Hour Choir in an album called A CALM RETREAT. This fourteen-voice professional group was organized in 1955 and has had a wide ministry through the

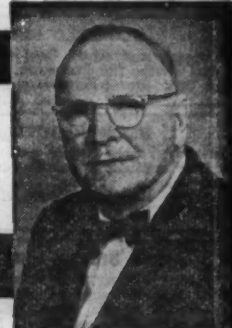
broadcast which is the "official" radio voice of the Southern Baptist Convention. The choir is heard regularly each Sunday on 460 stations here and abroad. Arrangements were done by Kurt Kaiser, producer of the album, and feature some unusual modern harmony. We were impressed with the big sound for a small group and with the balance of voices. There are eleven selections. Here are some of the titles: There Is a Green Hill Far Away; Jesus Is All the World to Me; O Sacred Head Now Wounded; From Every Stormy Wind That Blows; Wherever He Leads I'll Go; and Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts. WORD W-3142-LP

The third album of songs by Sixteen Singing Men is called WONDERFUL PEACE. There is no doubt but what this is one of the finest male vocal groups in the land today. Select voices from the midwest comprise the chorus which is directed and accompanied by Scott Douglas, who also performed the arrangements. The new album holds an even dozen titles. The style is smooth and relaxing. The tones are soft and "covered." The unusual blend and harmony make for true listening pleasure. This is a delightful album. Songs include: Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross; More Love to Thee; Rock of Ages; Jesus Led Me All the Way; Wonderful Peace; and Room At the Cross for You. ZONDERVAN ZLP-575

Readers seeking sermons on record will be interested in three albums containing two messages each by Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., founder of Bob Jones University. The messages are: "What Is a Christian" and "Personal Accountability to God," "They Need Not Depart" and "Soul Winning," "Secret of Success" and "Elements of Success." Here is all of the homespun philosophy of the greatly-used evangelist derived from years of studying and preaching the Bible. Dr. Bob's voice has a tenderness and appeal that moves the heart. Each record comes in a colorful jacket with a picture of Dr. Jones. There are two messages on a record and each message runs about ten minutes at 33 1/3 rpm. You may order the records through the Bob Jones University Bookstore.

So we pack up the albums and turn off the record player. It has been good to be with you again for this little monthly session. Find your way back next month. WRITE! We will be glad to help you in any way we can. By the way, a reader writes from Germany requesting sacred records in the Czech language. If you know where such can be found, please write and tell us. Our address is: RECORDS, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois. 'Bye.

Dr. Bob Jones SAYS:



Some people think of Bob Jones University as "sort of a preachers' school." We do have a large number of ministerial students, but we have many students who are going to be teachers or who are going into the business world. They are all training to do whatever God wants them to do. We take the position that life is not divided into the secular and the sacred. We say that it is just as sacred to be a Christian housewife and mother as it is to be a foreign missionary—that is, if that is what God wants a young lady to be.

I quote from a letter received from one of our graduates who served in the Armed Forces for several years and is now in the business world: "We have been blessed with two children—a girl five, and a boy one-and-a-half. The training and spiritual guidance and discipline we had at Bob Jones University have been the reason for what success we have enjoyed in the world. Our children will attend Bob Jones University." Al-

most every day letters come to us from former students who are praising God for what they learned here and from parents of former students who thank God for Bob Jones University and the wonderful Christian work it has been able, by the help of God, to do.

Won't you friends help us? First: Pray for us earnestly every day. Second: Won't you help us select the right kind of students so we can train more Christian leaders? Third: Won't you please help us financially? We are endeavoring not to raise our prices for room, board, tuition, and fees. We hope we will not have to raise the price, but we will have to if more people do not help us financially. Please let us hear from you, and please invest some of God's money in the work God is doing through Bob Jones University. Thank you, and God bless you.

BOB JONES, FOUNDER
BOB JONES UNIVERSITY
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(Advertisement)

The Dance

(Continued from page 1)

checked (except those of one denomination) have dancing.

The similar check of the colleges of the smaller and off-shoot denominations showed definite rules against dancing in some schools.

A like check of the colleges of the "holiness-type" denominations showed definite rules against dancing in all of the schools checked.

This study indicates that a great change of attitude toward the dance has been, and is, taking place in our churches. The rules and regulations laid down by the "founding fathers" of our older colleges reflect the prevailing standards of the churches of their day. As revealed by this survey, the college rules were strict and the standards high. One quotation expresses the general thought of the founders: "To produce a maximum spiritual benefit to a perishing world."

Finding myself out of step with the apologists for the dance, I ask: "Has the leopard really changed his spots? Has human nature changed, or is the change due to the lack of conviction and spiritual insight in the membership of our churches today?"

Let us look at the arguments, which in the past were advanced against the dance, when the evangelist devoted one of his sermons to the evils of the world, of which the dance was a major one. There were three main lines of thought: Dancing is based on sex and awakens sex passions; dancing is opposed to Scripture teaching; dancing is inconsistent with the Christian life.

Accepting these arguments as valid, the church expected one who claimed "conversion" to refrain from the dance. The growth of the church in popularity and wealth in large measures accounts for the great change that has taken place. As the line between the church and the world has become more and more dim, it has become easier to accept the dance than to purify the church.

But how has the church disposed of these arguments to which it once subscribed? Largely by silence. Neither pastor nor evangelist mentions the dance. It is assumed that without instructions, a "convert" will satisfy his conscience and his God.

But where opposition to the dance has been insistent, the ar-

guments have been met point by point by the proponents of dancing. "True," say they, "both sexes participate in the dance, but positions taken in the dance are not 'vulgar, tempting, indecent, arousing passions,' if participants and observers are pure in thought. If chaperoned, all possible evils of the dance are avoided." "A reinterpretation of the Scriptures quoted against the dance" say the dance advocates, "shows that the world is really good, not bad; that the dance, instead of being part of a 'vile world,' is essentially good; not only harmless, but positive in its goodness."

"And," they continue, "the dance is not inconsistent with the Christian life. It is only inconsistent with the 'blue laws' of a narrow church. Unreasonable rules have made it appear bad."

But my mind refuses to thus dispose of the question. I cannot go along with those who refuse to see harm in the dance. Let us reconsider the points once accepted by the church against it.

That the dance is based on sex cannot successfully be denied. No other institution outside of marriage depends on the participation of both sexes, and while human nature is human nature, such positions as the dance allows will tend to arouse sex passions. These positions would, in any situation other than family relationships, be taken only for the sex thrill. By what mental alchemy does this physical juxta-position of the sexes become harmless in the dance?

And here we may ask: "What part might this institution—the dance—have in the sex debacle of this generation? This debacle may be shown by one quotation from a news item: "Pregnancy among unmarried adolescent girls is increasing, possibly influenced by teen-age tolerance toward sexual activity," a government social worker, Mrs. Katherine Brownell Oettinger, chief of the U. S. Children's Bureau, said. "The rate of motherhood per 1000 unmarried women tripled between 1940 and 1956" (quoting from an item in the Progress-Bulletin of Pomona, Calif.).

Statistics attest that we are living in a constant sex-atmosphere in the social life of America today. In checking all possible causes of this sex-atmosphere, I would name as an A-1 cause—the dance—an institution depending for its very existence on the pairing of the sexes with physical contact.

Let us quote some of those Scripture passages against which the dance has opposed itself:

"Come ye out from among them and be ye separate";

"Make no provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof";

"Whosoever therefore is a friend of the world, is an enemy of God";

"Follow holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord";

"To keep himself unspotted from the world";

"But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified."

These Scripture quotations, with large numbers of others, and the great teachings embedded in them, with an honest interpretation, give nothing but condemnation for the dance. That divine institution—the church—must not tolerate this institution of the world—the dance.

Dancing is inconsistent with the individual Christian life. I profess that I am born again, and yet I dance. I know that I must strive after holiness—and yet I dance. I profess to follow Christ—and yet I dance with the world that crucified Him. This inconsistency escapes criticism in large measure, for worldliness is a theme not used in the pulpit today.

I cannot change the convictions which, as a Christian, I have always held against the dance. I cannot look upon the dance floor without saying, "Here is a battlefield upon which many a Christian character has been wounded, even unto death, with the odds all against the Christian." I cannot stifle the agonized cry of the girl with whose story I began this article, "Oh! If I just had never learned to dance!"

Standards of churches have changed; rules of their colleges have changed; the leopard's spots have been painted over: but human nature has not changed; the

The Editor's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

will be back teaching in Bob Jones University before you get this and a baby sitter will watch after little Roger.

Family Conference: Twenty-Two Saved, Much Blessing at Bill Rice Ranch

In the Sword conference for families August 21-26, there was much blessing. The separate sessions for wives and mothers, for men, for young people, for junior high folks and children did much good and there is a genuine and strong sentiment to have such a conference again next year. Dr. Lee Roberson was blessed, Walt Handford and Dr. Bill Rice were as good as I ever heard them, which is good indeed.

Evangelist Walt Handford did some strong, patient teaching on practical soul-winning. Then on Friday afternoon some twenty-three people went into Murfreesboro to do house-to-house personal work in homes, apartment buildings, and downtown. They earnestly sought to lead people to Christ. They came back rejoicing with names and addresses of some twenty-two people who claimed the Lord. The oldest was a man eighty-seven years old. These were not lost people who attended the services, but lost people whom Christians found in town, nine miles away, and won to the Saviour.

Many Christians committed themselves to an earnest effort to win souls regularly and we believe we will hear great reports from their soul-winning work, as we often do hear from those who attend such conferences.

Don Sandberg led the music. There was lovely special music by Mrs. Handford, Mrs. Himes, Mrs. Sandberg, and Don Sandberg. People attended from some fifteen states.

In Answer to Inquiries, No!

Neither the editor, the assistant editor, nor contributing editor, Robert Sumner, are associated in anywise with Rev. Bill Beeny of St. Louis. We have not been on any program with him in the last year, and are not associated with him in any organization.

Those Fifteen Chapters: Labor and Prayer and Faith!

These last few days in August my helpers are reading and correcting the gally proofs on the new book, *The Golden Path to Successful Personal Soul Winning*. In a few days the type will be made up into pages, and then the printing presses will begin to roll on this book of some 300 pages and 15 chapters.

Labor? Yes, hard study, prayer, writing, rewording, correcting! Labor in typing, in proofreading. And labor ahead in getting the book on the market, sending review copies to magazines, advertising it. Faith? Yes, faith to invest the money, do the work, and depend on God to bless the book.

We hope it will prove to be a companion volume to my book, *Prayer—Asking and Receiving*. It is about the same size; it will sell for \$3.00 a copy. It has beautiful green and gold binding. We believe it will fill the need of those who actually want to learn to win souls and teach others to win souls. Just as, in great conferences all over America for twenty years, and in my revivals, God has helped me develop people into actual soul winners, so I believe this Bible teaching, this heart-warming spiritual preaching, this careful instruction will be used of God to make many soul winners. Oh, may God grant it!

We expect the book off the press in October. Meantime, we want to introduce the book and sell a thousand copies at once. So the prepublication price is only \$2.35. Please enclose 15c for postage and mailing. This price is good till October 15. Then the price will

dance is still evil; the leopard has not changed his spots.

(Copies in tract form will be sent free in limited quantities, or in any quantity at 2c each postpaid (cost). Address the author, Rev. H. F. Gilbert, 1651 Elwood Ave., Pomona, California. Give name, denomination, and number of copies desired.)

Hold Your Wallets, Here We Go!

The extravagance of Congress has gone beyond the bounds of reason, let alone justification. The panicky reaction to the word "crisis" has loosed a barrage of appropriations in the hope, perhaps, that a few dollar bills will flutter down where they will be useful.

Look at what happened in a few hours on Tuesday:

The Senate appropriations committee approved a 46.8 billion dollar defense bill which included 753 million dollars for long-range bombers the White House didn't even request.

The House foreign affairs committee approved, by a landslide vote, the administration's long-term foreign aid program, which

be \$3.00, plus 15c for postage and mailing.

You may be one of the first to get this book if you order now ahead of time. No billing. Cash with order, and the prepublication price is \$2.35, plus postage. Address THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Box 420, Wheaton, Illinois.

We Are Coming Soon!

Yes, some noble and greatly-used men of God are coming soon, with the editor, to important conferences on revival and soul winning:

To Struthers, Ohio, Tabernacle Baptist Church, September 18-24, Dr. Lee Roberson, Dr. Jack Hyles, and this editor.

Phoenix, Arizona, at Bible Chapel (2925 West Polk), October 8-11, Dr. Jack Hyles, Dr. Lee Roberson, and this editor. It will be followed by a great united tent campaign, this editor preaching, October 12-27, sponsored by some thirteen pastors and churches.

Jacksonville, Florida, at the Normandy Baptist Temple (5634 Normandy Blvd.), October 29-November 1, Dr. Lee Roberson and this editor.

Decatur, Alabama, at Grace Baptist Church (Sherman at Riverview), sponsored by twelve Conservative Baptist churches: Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., and this editor.

We pray that God will give great crowds and many Christians will be revived in heart and there will be a Holy Spirit stirring in all our lives.

Five United Revival Campaigns Now Planned

We look forward to the two and a half weeks of tent revival campaign at Seventh and Camelback Streets in Phoenix, Arizona, October 12-27.

Other groups of pastors and churches have invited us to united city-wide revival campaigns in Twin Falls, Idaho; Peoria, Illinois; Easton, Pennsylvania, and Bel Air, Maryland, in the next few months.

I feel I must spend more time in such united revival campaigns. Again, there is great need for someone to set an example of old-time united revivals sponsored by Bible-believing Christians, and not controlled by modernists and compromisers. This is the work dearest to my heart. I have more burdens than I can carry, but surely God will give the strength for more of these campaigns. Wherever a group of pastors and churches can agree to go into an earnest revival effort, with a large neutral auditorium, I will be glad to send an advance man to work out the details and I will co-operate in saving an acceptable time, if I have the time open. Such meetings would have to be probably next May and beyond.

Our contributing editor, Evangelist Robert L. Sumner, a great Bible preacher, is holding some city-wide campaigns and his preaching is adequate for the largest centers. We hope he will soon be giving nearly all of his time to city-wide campaigns. Brethren pray, and where you can, unite together in your invitations so that we will not need to turn so many people down, and can reach as many people as possible with the Gospel.

Sen. Byrd says will ultimately cost 40 billion dollars.

On the Senate floor the crisis was fought by resisting efforts to trim a 5.1 billion dollar appropriation for welfare and labor programs.

This 5.1 billion dollars hasn't the remotest connection with Berlin, but is nevertheless 297 million dollars more than the administration asked for. The Senators who wanted to trim it had the unexpected support of Senators Douglas of Illinois and Proxmire of Wisconsin, but even so they failed.

The fear in Washington no longer seems to be that Mr. Kennedy will spend too much, but rather that he will spend too little. The fiscal year 1962 is barely a month old and already the anticipated spending for the year amounts to a peace-time record of 88.5 billion dollars. This is 7.6 billion more than Mr. Eisenhower's budget estimate in January, and herein lies another record. Never has actual spending run this far ahead of the budget—and there is still 11 months to go.

Instead of the small surplus expected in the Eisenhower budget, we now face an expected deficit of at least 6 billion dollars.

After his inauguration, Mr. Kennedy succeeded in bolstering confidence in the dollar by proclaiming his belief in fiscal responsibility and a balanced budget. Does he still believe in these things? If so, will he veto any of this spending? We doubt it because, for the most part, it carries out the domestic spending program to which he committed himself when he was not thinking of confidence in the dollar.

The administration and Congress must share the blame for rushing faster toward a deficit than any preceding administration, and for a flagrant disregard of the budget. Until there is an end to this uncontrolled mania for spending, there will be little hope for the taxpayer and little hope for sound money or a sound economy.

—Editorial in the *Chicago Tribune* for August 3, 1961.

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Saints in Caesar's Household

(Continued from page 1)

of the fact that no matter what may be our situation, wherever we find a sinner we may preach Christ to him, and right there he may be saved. Thus the workshop may be as holy as the church. Wherever we witness for Christ, He will manifest His presence and His power to save.

Hundreds of illustrations might be given. I mention only two. On a railway train I once talked with a boy who was in great sorrow. As we rode together, he came to Jesus Christ and was gloriously converted. He left me at a little side station to perform a sad errand. He went home to bury his mother—but he went with the joy of the Lord in his heart.

One morning at two o'clock I was called to the bedside of a poor, dying girl in a house of shame. I was never more conscious of the presence of the Lord than I was in that place. Five of her companions stood about the bed as I tried to lead this little girl—she was only in her teens—into the light of the Gospel. They were all outcasts. As I read, at the dying girl's request, the story of the ninety and nine and told them of the Good Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep, He Himself was there. A heart was going out after Him, a spirit was feeling for God; and He came "to seek and to save that which was lost." It may be that He is often outside of the organization that we call the church, knocking and trying to get in. But whether it be at a deathbed, or on a street corner, or in a humble mission, or anywhere else, He is always close beside the sinner who is seeking Him. Any time, anywhere, anybody may come, for Jesus said, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

I wonder if there are not a great many people in factories, in stores, in homes, that would believe unto salvation if only someone would show them the way. One cannot be saved without believing; and "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." We sometimes sing:

*Jesus would save,
But there's no one to tell them.*

The Lord put you right where you are that you might witness there for Him and proclaim the glorious message of salvation. True, you may have gone there in order to make enough money to pay the rent, and to buy bread for the family. But God had something to do with your appointment. He has been waiting a long time for you to make a saint of some sinner close by.

Personal Responsibility

Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman used to tell of a great Presbyterian Church in New York where, one

night, the pastor called the elders together and poured out his soul before them. He told them that he was utterly discouraged and felt that he must resign and go elsewhere. They tried to remind him that he had splendid congregations and that he was getting more money through the offerings than any of his predecessors had been able to get.

"But, oh," he replied, "I am commissioned to make disciples! God called me to bring men to Jesus Christ, and none are being brought. Tell me when anyone has made a decision for Christ during my pastorate. If an elder has any special business under Heaven it is to win souls. I want to ask each of you elders a question. Have you led a soul to Jesus?" Every one of them had to say no. More than that, they had to admit that they had not even tried. That was the tragedy of it.

"Well," said the preacher, "I am going to resign. I think you elders ought also to resign and make room for men who will be real elders, and for a pastor whose ministry will be effective."

The resignation was not accepted, but as a result of this conference, they all got down on their knees and confessed their sin. The next morning a very influential man in that group went to his office. He rang the bell for his confidential clerk.

"John, how long have you been here?" he asked.

"Five years."

"Do you know I am a Christian?"

"Yes, sir."

"Do you know I am an elder in the church?"

"Yes, sir; I have been in your church."

"John, are you a Christian?"

"No, sir."

"Have you ever wondered that I have not asked you about this before?"

"Yes, sir, I have. When I first came here I expected that you would talk to me about it, but you didn't."

Getting up, the employer extended his hand and said, "Forget my position now, John. I am just a man, full of faults and weaknesses. Will you forgive me? Will you kneel down here and pray with me, this morning?"

John knelt beside his employer and was converted. Many, like him, would receive Christ if someone would tell them. I have a conviction that the striving after pleasure and the reaching out for foolish things are but attempts to satisfy that heart longing which the salvation of Christ alone can give. Such was my thought once; but—

*Since my eyes were fixed on Jesus,
I've lost sight of all beside;
So enchained my spirit's vision,
Looking at the Crucified.*

In St. Louis a number of years ago a lawyer was transacting some business with a client. As the latter rose to go, he hesitated at the door, and calling the lawyer

by name, he said, "There is a question I have often wanted to ask you, but I have been a coward."

"Why?" replied the lawyer. "I did not know that you were afraid of anything. What is the question?"

"Why are you not a Christian?"

The lawyer replied, "Is there not something in the Bible to the effect that no drunkard shall have any part in the kingdom of God? You know my weakness."

"That is not my question. My question is, Why are you not a Christian?"

"Well," said the lawyer, "nominally I am an Episcopalian, but I cannot recall that anybody ever asked me if I were a Christian, and I am sure nobody ever told me how to become one."

Then that hard-headed businessman drew his chair close to the lawyer and read to him passages from the Gospel of John, and also Acts 13:38, 39. Then he said simply, "Let us get down and pray."

The lawyer prayed first: "O Jesus, Thou knowest what a slave I am to drink. Here this morning Thy servant has shown me the way to God. Oh, break the power of this habit in my life!"

Later I heard this man give his testimony. "Put it down big, put it down plain," he said, "that He broke that power instantly." He did not have to fight and struggle against the habit. God broke it for him. Who was this lawyer? Dr. C. I. Scofield, the editor of the Scofield Reference Bible. Was it worthwhile for that friendly businessman to say a word for Jesus Christ? Scofield was ready for the Word. There are others like him, but there is no one to tell them. They need the cheering message of the saints in Caesar's household. "Wherefore, he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him."

Abundant Grace

What else do these saints in strange places tell us? In the second place, they prove that Christ can make and keep Christians victorious. Frequently we may be called upon to suffer, as Paul did, not only for Christ's sake, but for the sake of our brethren. But in distress there may be joy, in conflict there may be victory. With the shackles on his wrists, Paul wrote to Timothy, "I suffer . . . even unto bonds, but the word of God is not bound." The body may be shackled, but the Living Word cannot be bound.

There comes to my mind a Christian brother who suffered probably as much as any human being has ever suffered. His wife and two daughters died within a week, and a little later his son was taken from him. His own body was afflicted. It became necessary to amputate both limbs, his left arm, and two fingers of his right hand. The last ten years of his life were spent in a home for incurables. Oh, how much he endured! Just before he died he wrote a little poem descriptive of his attitude toward this whole bitter experience. The title is "My Master's Orders":

*Go, work and pray;
Such were the orders yesterday,
And should I dare to disobey?*

*Then His command
Was wholly changed;
He bade me sit and contemplate
The working of His hand.*

*Today His will
Is spoken in these words: Lie still,
And shall I not His will fulfill?*

*Lie still and pray:
This is my Lord's command today,
And I will do His will—His way.*

In the eleventh chapter of Hebrews we are introduced to twenty-one characters, each one representing a separate and a progressive phase of the faith life. Each one passed through a different kind of trial. They were not all delivered out of the furnace of afflictions; but if they were not, they were delivered in it. God can keep you from going into the fire if He wills, and He often does; or He can sustain you while you are passing through it. Which is greater—to have no trial, or to have some fierce testing and find that His grace is sufficient for it?

Of the heroes of Hebrews eleven, some "quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong . . . others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings,

yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; Of whom the world was not worthy."

In the same spirit of loyalty to Christ, a Chinese Christian, filled with compassion for his brethren, the coolies, sold himself to five years of slavery in the mines that he might preach the Gospel there. When he died, it was estimated that two hundred souls had been brought to Christ through his instrumentality, and God alone knows how many more there were. Like Paul in Caesar's household, this noble Chinese became a bond slave that he might tell the story of God's love. There are not many like him. We sing fervently:

*Where He leads me, I will follow,
but do we mean what we say?
Obedience requires that we go
unto Him without the camp, bearing
His reproach.*

Saints Even in Rome

A saint in Caesar's household! Have you ever thought what it meant to be a saint in the days of infamous Nero? One of his biographers has said that "the name of Nero was a shudder." Rome was a cesspool of iniquity and sensuality. Yet there were saints in Caesar's household. Some people think a change of location is what they need; probably it is more grace that they need, right where they are.

In the year A. D. 64, after the great fire for which Nero was responsible, in order to turn suspicion from himself, he blamed the Christians. Hundreds of thousands of them were brought to trial, and someone has said that the injustice

of their conviction was only equalled by the diabolical executions that followed. Some of them were bound up in the skins of animals and thrown to the wild beasts to be devoured. Nero's cruelty reached its climax when he illuminated his garden with human torches, Christians covered with pitch. As the stars appeared in the evening sky a bugle sounded. It was the signal for the touching of the straw at the base of each human torch. In a moment the garden was ablaze. As the fire flared, there was a groan; but above it the voices of the martyrs were lifted in praise to God.

Their courage and steadfastness make us ashamed of our soft, easy-going lives. We are living in a pleasure-seeking, self-pitying age. Pin-pricks annoy us. We are a long way from the brand of devotion that characterized the saints in Caesar's household. But of such devotion the world stands sorely in need. May there come to each of us a new interpretation of Christ's command, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me," and a new willingness to obey.

(From the book, IS GOD STILL SPEAKING TO MEN? Published by Fleming H. Revell. Used by permission.)

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Searching the Scriptures for the Saviour

By Elizabeth Rice Handford

Ecclesiastes 2 All Is Empty Without Christ

We are searching the Scriptures for the Saviour, and we will search in vain for Him in this chapter. King Solomon, in Ecclesiastes, set out to search out by his own wisdom all things that are done under heaven (1:13). When he had sought them, and tested them, he concluded, "I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit. That which is crooked cannot be made straight; and that which is wanting [or lacking] cannot be numbered" (1:14, 15).

Solomon looked at the world, and tasted all the delightful things in it. He satisfied every whim of life. He felt the joy of building great things, was gladdened by growing plants, felt a sense of power in owning the lives of thousands of servants, experienced the delights of music, had the love of wives and concubines—all that a man could ask of life—and it tasted as dust and ashes in his mouth. Life had no meaning. The crooked could not be made straight. All that was wanting could not be counted. The sinner has travail and punishment. When a man dies, he leaves it all.

So life is to the man who lives without the hope in Christ Jesus. "I went about to cause my heart to despair" (vs. 20), Solomon said. Solomon could not find the marvelous message of salvation from sin simply by looking for it in his own wisdom. The eternal power of God and His Godhead we learn by looking at God's creation (Rom. 1:20). And by observation and experience we learn most surely that God punishes sin, and that by ourselves, the crooked cannot be made straight. But only through God's revelation of His Son in the Bible do we learn that God has made a way for us to escape our sins. Through Christ, the crooked can be made straight. Through Him, all that is lacking in our lives is given to us, for "in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him" (Col. 2:9, 10). Through Christ, the sinner can find an escape from travail, if he will accept the travail of Christ in his behalf.

Clues Across

- 1 "_____ the fool walketh in darkness"
- 3 "I made me pools of water, _____ water therewith"
- 4 "there was no profit under _____ sun"
- 7 "where I _____, there shall also my servant be" John 12:26
- 9 city near which Abram pitched his tent (Gen. 12:8)
- 10 "Go to now, I will _____ thee with mirth"
- 12 automobile
- 14 "Loose thy _____ from off thy foot" Josh. 5
- 16 "As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth _____ to me"
- 18 father of Mattathias (Luke 3:25)
- 20 long period of time
- 21 "there is no _____ thing under the sun" Eccl. 1
- 22 "So _____, being many, are one body in Christ" Rom. 12
- 23 a curved line
- 24 "I planted _____ (s) in them of all kind of fruits"
- 26 "but to the _____ he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up"
- 29 "yet shall _____ have rule over all my labour"
- 30 and (Latin)
- 31 fruit of the palm tree
- 34 "because I should _____ it unto the man that shall be after me"
- 36 "For God _____ to a man that is good in his sight wisdom"
- 39 trustee of estate (Scotch)
- 40 "the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to _____ even unto you" II Cor. 10

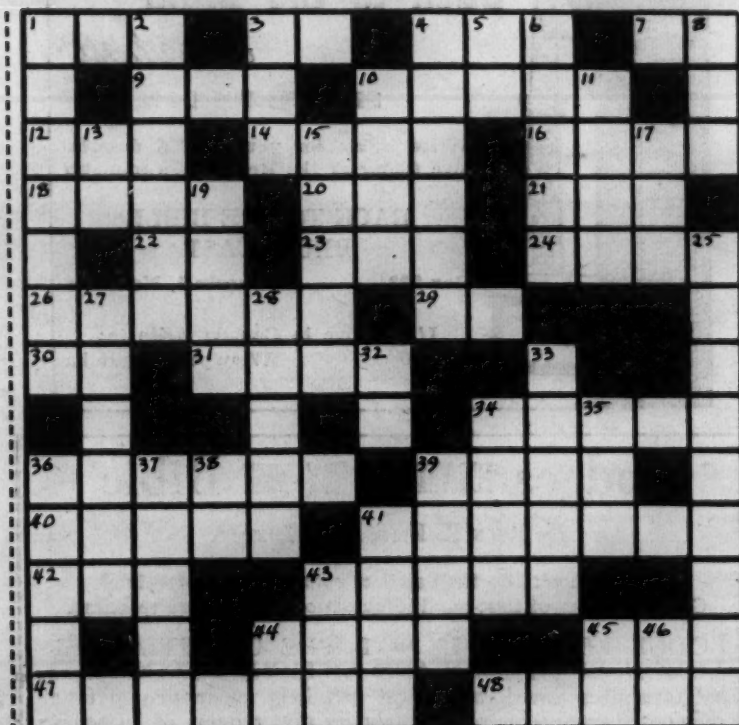
- 41 "For all his days are sorrows, and his _____ grief"
- 42 shaped like the letter "L"
- 43 "_____ is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink"
- 44 "as certain also of your own _____ (s) have said, For we are also his offspring" Acts 17
- 45 "For who can _____, or who else can hasten?"
- 47 "yet to a man that hath not laboured _____"
- 48 "and of _____, What doeth it?"

Clues Down

- 1 "_____ the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me"
- 2 "the horse and his rider hath he _____ into the sea" Exod. 15
- 3 contraction for "it is"
- 4 "he made a _____ about the altar, as great as would contain" I Kings 18
- 5 "_____ every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters" Isa. 55
- 6 "I myself perceived also that one _____ happeneth to them all"
- 8 "I gat me _____ singers and women singers"
- 10 "Better is a _____ and a wise child than an old and foolish king" Eccl. 4
- 11 "there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for _____"
- 13 "that where I _____, there ye may be also" John 14
- 15 "I sought in mine _____ to give myself unto wine"

Deadline: September 25, 1961

Puzzle No. 37



Mail to: Puzzle Editor, SWORD OF THE LORD, Wheaton, Illinois
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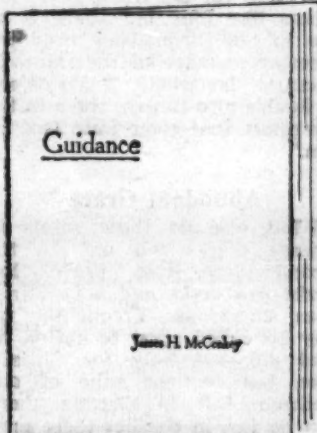
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zone _____ State _____

(Cut along dotted lines)

- 17 "But the poor man had nothing, save one little _____ lamb" II Sam. 12
- 19 "Pray _____ that he will forth labourers into his harvest" Matt. 9
- 25 "as far as light _____ darkness" 27 one of the men to whom Agur spoke in Proverbs 30
- 28 "Shall not the Judge of all the _____ do right?" Gen. 18:25
- 32 father of Elmodam (Luke 3:28)
- 33 "yet to a man that hath not laboured therein shall he _____ it"
- 34 "we make him a _____, and his word is not in us" I John 1
- 35 son of Jether (I Chron. 7:38)
- 36 "So I was _____ and increased more than all that were before me"
- 37 "Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more _____ than many sparrows" Matt. 10
- 38 initials of first woman and first baby
- 39 "_____ not thyself because of evildoers" Ps. 37
- 41 "_____ I saw that wisdom excelleth folly"
- 43 king of Hamath (II Sam. 8:9)
- 44 Hebrew letter just before Psalm 119:129
- 45 son of Judah (Gen. 38:3)
- 46 "The Lord _____ will not all acquit the wicked" Nahum 1

Free!

for correct, prompt answers to
Puzzle Number 37



The twenty-third Psalm assures us that as sheep our shepherd leads us (vs. 2). The author deals with the *how* and *wherefore* of this guidance.

There are three main mediums which God uses in guiding His children, namely, His Word, circumstances and the Holy Spirit. While emphasizing that there is no royal road to guidance, the author points out that God's great clarifier in guidance is waiting. He shows that guidance is sometimes extraordinary, sometimes ordinary, but that usually it is one step at a time. He points out that guidance may be by steps as well as by steps, that it is usually cumulative, and he warns of seeking short cuts in guidance, or guidance that is solely of the flesh.

The scriptural conclusion is that guidance is *sure* for those who wait and pray.

THE RULES

1. Fill in blanks according to clues given. Answer must be complete and correct. We use the Scofield Reference Bible in making up the clues.
 2. PRINT name and address in blank below puzzle. This coupon serves as your address label for envelope containing your prize. If you print your answers on a separate sheet in order to not cut your Sword, put them in the same form as the puzzle rather than in columns. Entries will not be returned.
 3. If paper arrives after deadline, place date of arrival on puzzle entry. Answer to Puzzle Number 37 will appear in October 6 issue.
 4. Each person having a correct entry will receive a coupon along with the weekly prize. Save these coupons! End of the year prizes are: World Bible with concordance, or Rainbow edition of the Bible for your readers (King James Version) for 48 coupons; a compact and easy to handle World Bible (King James Version) for 40 coupons; Illustrated Bible Geography and Atlas for 25 coupons.
- Remember, your coupons are the only record of your correct entries. It will be your responsibility to keep the coupons. Duplicate cou-

"Let Us Alone!"

(Continued from page 1)

the outcry of a man which may well stand as the typical attitude and confession of a sinner. Almost any sinner could make this statement. It reveals the thinking of sinners. You may see your own thinking reflected in his thoughts. "And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God." Let us analyze this man's thinking.

I. A Typical Sinner's Attitude

You will notice he had a TYPICAL ATTITUDE. He wanted Christ to *let him alone*. Sin always wants to be let alone. It does not want to be meddled with. Ever since the first sinner hid from God among the trees of the garden, sinners have been running from God, and running from His servants. They run from the light. "For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved [discovered]" (John 3:20). Sinners are so shy of Christ and the truth that it takes holy boldness, great tact, and "sanctified common sense" to know how to deal with them.

A sinner learns to throw up barricades and roadblocks. "I don't want to talk religion," he says. How strange! He will talk on any other subject by the hour. What he calls "religion" may disturb his conscience. And that is just the thing he does not want to happen. He wants his conscience let alone. He may say, "Don't preach to me." You may be very mild and courteous; but it affords him an opportunity to get rid of you, or to intimidate you, by labeling your efforts as *preaching*. And preaching, as he terms it, is *dictating or domineering*. The root of the matter is that he wants to be let alone.

Nothing could please the world better than to have preachers and personal workers keep still. As a man shrinks from having his boil touched, so sinners shrink from having their sin dealt with.

A number of years ago the writer suffered from a severe leg trouble. The pain was terrific. I dreaded to have the doctor even touch it, but he said, "Unless I can touch it, I can do you no good." I wanted it let alone, but he needed to touch and examine it for my own good.

Sinner, do you really want to be let alone? Do you realize what it would mean to you if Christ let you alone entirely? All temporal blessings, as well as what we regard as spiritual blessings, are *Christ's* blessings. If He were to let you alone, all these blessings would cease. The air you breathe, the strength in your muscles, the food you eat, the water you drink, are all His. Your very physical life is *His* life which He has allowed you to have for a season. Can you afford the loss of these things? Even if there were no Hell for sinners, the mere subtraction of His blessings would utterly ruin you.

Christ will let you alone if you insist, and really mean it. Beware lest you try Him too far. "To day, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts . . ." (Heb. 3:7, 8). Some people have grieved, offended, and refused the Holy Spirit so much and so often that

pons will not count as two separate coupons. ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR COMPLETE ADDRESS ON PUZZLE, NOTE OR OTHER CORRESPONDENCE.

Answer to Puzzle No. 34

THOU ART THE
HANNAH ERE NO
O ADDI N SAVE
SAME AND THY
EL RAN ER W
ON C AR POUR
ENOCH S FEW I
YEARS SHALL T
E HEAR ERI AT
F AH FL CAME
EAT ORPHAN N
HAVE NO END
REDEEM R BE

they are hardened, cold and defiant. Many such may never be reached for God.

If you insist on being let alone, God will one day abandon you forever. You will get your wish. Rather, you will get what you *thought* you wished. Actually, no greater calamity could befall you than to be let alone or be abandoned by the Lord.

It is said that Voltaire, the French infidel, exclaimed on his deathbed, "O Christ! O Lord Jesus!" Then, turning his face, he would cry out, "I must die—abandoned of God and men!" Tom Paine, when dying, said, "I would give worlds if *The Age of Reason* had never been published! O Lord, help me! O Christ, help me! Stay with me! IT IS HELL TO BE LEFT ALONE!" No child, abandoned of its parents in a dark room, ever felt a hundredth part of the terror you will feel if and when the Christ you think you do not want is compelled to say, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41). If you will want Him then, don't seek to be let alone now.

2. Sinners Must Reckon With Jesus

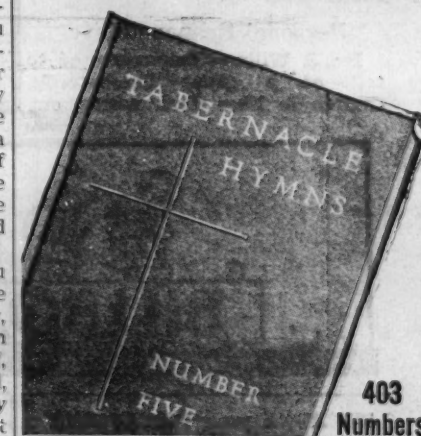
He asked a very significant and universal question: "What have we to do with thee?" Why is it that every man must reckon with Jesus? No one can escape Him. He declared, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth [i.e. Crucified], will draw all men unto [Greek *pros, toward*] me" (John 12:32). You can no more escape the drawing of Christ than you can escape gravity. You can resist gravity, but you cannot stop its pull. You may resist Christ, but you cannot deny that He has drawn you. As the earth does not necessarily draw all things to it, but does draw all things *toward* it; so Christ draws all men toward Him, though by their resistance they may prevent Him from drawing them all the way to Him.

You might as well try to divorce yourself from the earth and ask of it, "What have I to do with you?" as to ask this question of Christ. Shall a babe nursing at its mother's breast demand of her, "What have I to do with you?" Shall the fish say to the ocean, "I don't need you"? Or shall the bird say to the air, "I declare my independence of you"?

If Christ were only a man, you would not necessarily have anything to do with Him. Thousands of great men have come and gone, and we had nothing to do with them. Many of them we never heard of. We had no obligation to-

(Continued on page 7)

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ward them. We did not have to accept or reject them.

But we must all accept or reject Jesus Christ. You may not want to deal with Him. You may try to evade the responsibility. But there He stands, as He did before Pilate. And you are confronted with the same question that confronted him on that fatal day. The question you must and will ask yourself is, "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" (Matt. 27:22). You may try to "wash your hands" of Him and say, "I am innocent of the blood of this just person," but you cannot escape judging Him, one way or another. It was the same Pilate that washed his hands of Christ (as he thought) who was officially responsible for His execution. "And Pilate GAVE SENTENCE that it should be as they required" (Luke 23:24). As you have rejected Him from time to time, you have, in a sense, sentenced Him to crucifixion.

Jesus is standing at your heart's door;
Standing and knocking. He's
knocked before;
This is the question you face once
more—
What will you do with Jesus?

At your sad heart He is knocking
still,
Longing to enter your soul to
thrill;
You must accept or reject His
will—
What will you do with Jesus?

Oh, will you leave Him alone out-
side?
Or will you choose Him whatever
betide?
This is the question you must
DECIDE—
What will you do with Jesus?

Will you now answer His tender
call?
Will you obey Him whate'er be-
fall?
Follow Him daily as Lord of all?
What will you do with Jesus?

What will you do with Jesus?
NEUTRAL YOU CANNOT BE:
Some day your heart will be
asking,
What will HE do with ME?

(By B. B. McKinney, Copyright 1940,
Sunday School Board of Southern Baptist
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You may say, "I have never
rejected Jesus. It is just that

I have not accepted Him." But when a friend knocks for admission into your home and you do not receive Him, you automatically reject him. My dear lost soul, do you realize that all you have to do to be damned is to do *nothing*? The sin that leads to Hell is a *negative* sin, not a *positive* one. "... he that believeth NOT is condemned already, because he hath NOT believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18). "... he that believeth NOT the Son shall not see life; but the *wrath* of God abideth on him" (John 3:36). "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know NOT God, and that obey NOT the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Thess. 1:8). "And whosoever was NOT found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:15).

When God requires you to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, all you have to do to be guilty is just NOT to repent and believe. Just go right on in your own sweet way and leave Christ out of your life. But if you do, He will leave *you* out of Heaven. Be religious if you will; be a church member, sing in the choir, be a deacon, be a preacher, do all the good deeds you can think of. But, with all this, if you leave Christ out, He will say to you at the Judgment, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matt. 7:23).

What do you have to do with Jesus? Everything! He created you. He sustains you every moment. He gives you life, breath, food, clothing, and every temporal blessing. Greatest of all, He died for you. God will not compel you to accept His Son, but He *does* compel you to do *something* with Him. You must decide one way or another. God will not suffer you to *ignore* His Son.

I plead with you in His blessed name, **ACCEPT HIM NOW!** Then you will discover the blessedness of having everything to do with Him. You will want to do nothing apart from Him. Instead of resenting His intervention in your life, you will marvel at His grace in stooping to have anything to do with sinners such as we are.

3. Sinners Are Foolishly Afraid of Christ

This man totally misunderstood the mission of Christ. He asked, "Art thou come to *destroy* us?" No wonder he wanted to be let alone! No one wants to be destroyed. Oh, the misunderstanding in the world about Christ! Even the shepherds misunderstood the first announcement of His coming, and "were *sore afraid*." The angel had to make a correction then, as God's servants must make now—time and again. He said, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you *good tidings of great joy*, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a *Saviour* [not a destroyer or trouble-maker], which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10, 11).

Think of it! Millions of souls lost for eternity because of the misunderstanding of God's purpose in Christ. He did not come to destroy you, nor to make you miserable. He did not come to impose a burden upon you, but to bear your burdens. He did not

come to charge you with sin, but to take your sin away. He did not come to bring sad news, but glad tidings. He did not come to kill joy, but to give joy; not to bring death, but to bring life.

The Scriptures are clear, forceful and repetitious on this glorious theme. "The Son of man is not come to DESTROY men's lives, but to SAVE them" (Luke 9:56). "For God sent not his Son into the world to CONDEMN the world; but that the world through him might be SAVED" (John 3:17). Christ said, "I came not to JUDGE the world, but to SAVE the world" (John 12:47). Out of a bleeding, weeping, heart, He lamented over Jerusalem which utterly misunderstood Him, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that *killst the prophets*, and *stonest them that are sent unto thee* [they killed or abused their benefactors], how often would I have gathered thy children together, even AS A HEN GATHERETH HER CHICKENS UNDER HER WINGS, and ye *would not*!" (Matt. 23:37). His gracious purpose was to gather them under the wings of His salvation—but they would not. Instead of harkening to the prophets (whose only purpose was their good), they *killed* them! When others were sent to them with only gracious intent, they *stoned* them. And the greatest Benefactor of all—the Saviour who came not to condemn but to save—they CRUCIFIED!

And what have YOU done with this same gracious Saviour? Have you acted any better than ancient Jerusalem? He is weeping over YOU today and saying, "How often I would have saved you, blessed you, used you and made your life happy, but you would not! How often I would have helped you, and answered your prayers, but you would not."

Spurgeon tells of a poor woman in London who was so impoverished that she could not pay her rent. She lived in fear of the landlord, whose coming for his rent she dreaded sorely. Some good men heard of her plight and called one day to pay her rent. She heard their knock at the door, but she was only filled with alarm. The dreaded landlord had come! In great fear, she hid herself and would not go to the door. After repeated knocking the men at last turned away. Later, she saw her tragic mistake and realized how foolish she had been.

My friend, Jesus did not come to collect your rent, but to pay it. He is not a hard landlord, but Heaven's greatest philanthropist. He is knocking at your door this moment. Go quickly and let Him in. He has only the kindest of intentions. He means well by you. If you will let Him in now, He will let you into Heaven when He comes. Only YOU can open the door of your heart to let Him in. And only He can open the door of Heaven to let you in. What a wonderful bargain: Let HIM in, and He will let YOU in. Could anything be simpler, or more wonderful?

4. The Sinner's Conscience Works for the Gospel

This man made an amazing confession. "I know thee, who thou art, the Holy One of God." You would not expect a man like that to know who Jesus is, but he did. Let preachers and personal workers know that man's conscience is on their side. God has seen to it that the voice of conscience, even in the worst of men, bears witness to the deity and Saviourhood of Jesus Christ. When wicked men use the name of Jesus in profanity, they bear unconscious witness to His deity. If it were not wicked to use His name in vain, it would not appeal to them! Sissy expressions do not appeal to their "masculinity." They must use only *daring, dangerous* words! It is the SIN of taking His name in vain that tempts them to blaspheme.

But such innate knowledge on the part of men only renders them the more inexcusable. They are sinning against *light* in rejecting Him. They know in their inmost conscience that they are rejecting GOD. It is no sin necessarily to reject a man, but it is a deadly sin to reject God.

If He had indeed come to destroy you, you might be excused if you rejected Him. If He had

come only to make life burdensome to you, your aloofness would be understandable. But what explanation, or excuse, can you give for rejecting His love, His kindness, His grace, His favor?

If Christ came to sell you salvation, you might justly claim that you could not afford it. If He demanded righteousness as a condition, you might well plead that you did not have what He required. If He required wisdom, riches, maximum education, etc., you might be totally disqualified. But since salvation is not based on merit, human buying-power, righteousness, wisdom, riches, or education, but on faith alone, God has shut you up with the simple decision: Will you have His Son or not? Will you believe in Him or not? Will you take the water of life freely, or will you refuse it? "And let him that is *thirsty* come. And WHOEVER WILL, let him TAKE the water of life freely [i.e. without charge]" (Rev. 22:17). This invitation from God says nothing of conditions, except *thirst*. God is not looking for worthy or good people, but He is looking for THIRSTY people, people who are thirsty for Him and His salvation. Do you have that qualification?

5. Sinners Instinctively Feel and Fear Christ's Holiness

This man recognized true holiness when he saw it. He called the Lord Jesus "the *Holy One of God*." It is significant that though he had "an unclean spirit," he recognized a clean, pure and holy spirit in Christ. Uncleaness pays willing or unwilling tribute to cleanness and purity. Uncleaness feels all the more unclean in the presence of holiness. If Christ were only holy, and not gracious and merciful, His very holiness would drive us away in despair. A man in rags and tatters shuns those in fine clothing, because he is made conscious of his unfitness for society. A little boy who had been brought up in dirt and squalor spent a number of days with his aunt who kept her house neat and clean. When asked later how he enjoyed his visit, he said, "Well, I guess it was all right, but her house was *frightfully clean*."

The cleanness and purity of God frighten poor sinners. And because of that fear, they want to be let alone. But think of it this way, my friend: Do you not want the doctors and nurses who wait on you when you are sick to be clean and free from germs? Their spotless white clothing and germ-free hands are your assurance that they will not contaminate you with their own or others' diseases. The surgeon's lancets are scientifically clean, for your protection against germs or blood poison. Would you want it otherwise? Do you want cooks and waiters to be clean as they serve you your food? Of course you do. You would not go back to a restaurant if the cooks or waiters were obviously unclean.

Christ came to minister to you as the Great Physician and Surgeon. Do you want your Physician of the soul to be unclean? He came to bring you the bread of life and the water of life. Do you want the food and water for your soul to be served by one unclean?

Oh, my friend, thank God that Christ is the *Holy One*. He could not qualify as our Saviour and Redeemer if He were otherwise. So, it is to your interest that He is holy. It is a good and merciful thing for your needy soul that He has the holiness to qualify Him to save you from sin. Do not run from Him because He is clean and you are unclean. A little boy does not shun his mother because he is unclean and she is clean. She is just the one to make him clean. A person laden with germs or smeared with blood does not shun the clean hospital with the clean doctors and nurses. It is just the place for such needy people. It will not take them long to make him *just as clean as they are*. And this Holy One of God can give you of His cleanness and holiness until you are just as clean in the sight of God as He is.

The prodigal son returned to his father "just as he was"; in all his rags and filth. He was not afraid of his father's cleanness. And the father was not afraid of his son's filth. He hugged and kissed him—rags, filth and all!

No matter how sinful you are, no matter how filthy, the *CLEANEST* thing you can do is to come to God, not run from Him. And when He sees you coming in true repentance and faith, He will "Run" to meet you. He will hug and kiss you. He will receive you with wide open arms. He will put a ring on your hand and shoes on your feet. He will dress you in the best robe that Heaven can afford—the righteousness and holiness of Christ. He will kill the fatted calf for you, and all Heaven will put on a celebration such as earth has never seen for, as He puts it, "This my son was DEAD, and is alive again; he was LOST, and is found" (Luke 15:24).

Oh, I beg of you, do not let Christ alone. And do not ask Him to let you alone. He is just the one you need. He qualifies in every respect. He is the altogether lovely and lovable One. If He is not all this in your sight, it is because you misunderstand Him. Somebody or something has misrepresented Him, or distorted His image. God help you to see Him and love Him—as He is!

If you still want him to let you alone, the only place to get away from Him is HELL. And even there you will be haunted by that pure and spotless Lamb of God who came to our sin-cursed earth to die for sinners like you and me; the One who at infinite cost procured our pardon, sealed our forgiveness in His own blood, and opened to us the gates of Heaven.

Yes, Hell will be haunted. In Hell you will *remember*. You will remember the opportunities you had to accept Him. You will remember His servants who pleaded with you to come to Jesus. Yes, you will even remember this sermon. Oh, the curse of undying memory—when there is nothing but evil to remember!

But you will not be guilty of that folly, will you? Open your heart right now and say, "Lord Jesus, I thank Thee that Thou didst come to the earth and die for my sin. I thank Thee that Thou art holy and pure, and qualified to be my Saviour. I thank Thee for thine invitations to come to Thee. I am ashamed that I never came before. Forgive me of my sins, wash me in Thy precious blood, and make me a child of God. Help me to be a true Christian, to live for Thee and serve Thee. And, Lord, whatever may happen, never, never, NEVER LET ME ALONE!"

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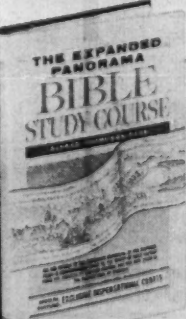
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